

# JIMMY CARTER

## 1977 - 1981



**James Earl Carter** was born in 1924 in Plains, Georgia. As a youth he helped his father on the family farm. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy. During his Naval career he worked with Captain Hyman G. Rickover in the development of the world's first nuclear-powered submarine in 1952. While serving on the Sumter County Board of Education, he opposed segregation laws.

**Rosalynn Smith Carter** was born in Plains, Georgia, in 1927. After graduation from Georgia Southwestern College in 1946 she married Jimmy Carter. When Carter's Naval service was completed, they returned to Plains to run the family farm, and Mrs. Carter managed the family finances and cared for their children.



**President Jimmy Carter** was first a candidate for Georgia Governor in 1964, but was defeated in the primary. He ran again in 1970 and won the election. As governor he merged about 300 state agencies and boards into about 30 agencies, and passed a law to provide equal state aid to schools in wealthy and poor areas of Georgia. He left office in 1975 to run for the presidency, and won the nomination on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention, and the presidency in 1976. During his administration the Mental Health Systems Act was passed in 1980, and also the Age Discrimination Act and the Older Americans Act. At this time, Congress also recognized the importance of the First Lady to the administration and appropriated funds for the First Lady's staff. On November 4, 1979 forty-four American Embassy employees were taken hostage by Iranian students in support of Iran's revolution and held for the remainder of President Carter's term. This incident is believed to be the primary reason he was not re-elected to a second term.

Rosalynn Carter has always spoken for the rights of women, children, and the mentally ill, and strongly supported the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. While First Lady she was honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health. She represented President Carter as his personal emissary to Latin American countries.

### Arizona Timeline

1977 – Wesley Bolin, Arizona Secretary of State, becomes Governor when Governor Raul Castro resigns to become U.S. Ambassador to Argentina.  
1978 - The City of Kingman inaugurates Andy Devine Days as an annual event.  
1980 – US Interstate 40 is opened through Kingman, Arizona. The Duval Corporation, Kingman's largest employer, shuts down most of the copper/molybdenum mining operation at Mineral Park.